

Esteemed members of the Human Services Committee:

My name is Kate Conetta and I am from Danbury, CT.

I'm writing to you in support of SB284: An Act Increasing the Age from Eight to Eighteen Years for an Income-Eligible Person to Obtain Medical Assistance Regardless of Immigration Status.

Last year the state expanded access to HUSKY insurance to children from infancy to eight years of age, regardless of immigration status. This was a laudable first step towards recognizing and addressing the needs of the most vulnerable members of our communities who would otherwise struggle to access healthcare.

However, childhood does not end at age 9.

All children deserve healthcare support, at the very least until they have graduated high school and entered the world as an adult.

More to the point, healthcare is something which should be accessible via HUSKY to anyone who needs its support. COVID-19 has demonstrated the importance of having good healthcare, and the need for consistent preventative care, particularly for those essential workers who kept our state running while others had the luxury of staying home. Many of those essential workers in my community are undocumented immigrants, and their vulnerability is my community's vulnerability.

I support SB #284, and I urge the committee to support and pass this legislation, and to continue the work beyond this specific bill of opening access to all immigrants in need regardless of age or status.

Thank you for your service and your time.

Respectfully,

Kate Conetta
Danbury, CT